

Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes

by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

"For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move; to feel the needs and hitches of our life more nearly; to come down off this feather-bed of civilization, and find the globe granite underfoot and strewn with cutting flints."

Stevenson's account of his extended walk, in 1878, through uplands and mountains in southwestern France amply fulfils this declaration of intent. He writes with a characteristic wry humour on his own failings as a traveller, on his travails with Modestine the self-willed donkey, and on the discomforts of travel in the age before mass tourism. There is also the poetic lyricism with which he describes the landscape, and above all in the core of the book: an extended discussion of religious tolerance and intolerance.

Total running time: 3:57:27

Read by Patrick Wallace

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney Map of Stevenson's route from An Inland Voyage And Travels With A Donkey, edited by James Cloyd Bowman, 1918.



Travels With a Donkey in the Cevennes R. L. Stevenson